

REMARKS

Prior to this response, Claims 75-98 were pending in the application. By this response, no claims are canceled or added. Hence, Claims 75-98 are pending in the application upon entry of this response.

Claim 75 is amended herein.

SUMMARY OF THE REJECTIONS/OBJECTIONS

Claims 75-78, 82, and 83 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over *Atsatt* et al. ("*Atsatt*"; U.S. Patent No. 5,504,892) in view of *Shoening* et al. ("*Shoening*"; U.S. Patent No. 6,769,124);

Claims 79-81 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over *Atsatt* in view of *Shoening* and further in view of Guck ("*Guck*"; U.S. Patent No. 5,864,870);

Claims 84-88 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over *Atsatt* in view of *Shoening* and further in view of Cantrell et al. ("*Cantrell*"; U.S. Patent No. 6,119,151); and

Claims 89-98 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over *Atsatt* in view of *Shoening* and further in view of Guillen et al. ("*Guillen*"; U.S. Patent No. 5,701,485).

THE REJECTIONS BASED ON THE PRIOR ART

Claims 75-98 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable primarily over *Atsatt* in view of *Shoening* and, for some claims, further in view of various other references; as presented above.

As a preliminary matter, the examiner is thanked for clarifying in the Response to Arguments what was set forth in the previous Office Action.

There seems to remain a difference between the interpretation the Office Action gives the clause “associating said first method with a first instance of a second object class” in **Claim 75** and what that clause is intended to mean. Where the Office Action seems to interpret “associating” broadly to encompass any type of association, Applicants intended “associating” to refer more narrowly to the ‘classical’ association, in object oriented programming, of an object and a method that belongs to the object. Stated otherwise, Applicants intended “associating” to mean that **the first method belongs to the first instance of the second class such that the first method is capable of performing operations on data stored in the first instance**. Thus, Claim 75 is amended herein to explicitly recite the intended meaning of associating a method with an object, particularly, the first method with the first instance of the second object class. Entry of this clarifying amendment is respectfully and earnestly requested because the amendment (1) should not require further search and/or examination; (2) places the application in condition for allowance; and (3) would have been presented previously but for a misunderstanding of what was set forth in the previous Office Action.

Claim 75 is patentable over the cited references of record for at least the following reasons. The Office Action contends that *Atsatt* teaches that an instance (i.e., a TFile object) is associated with a method (i.e., a method of TFileAccessControlList object) that is not a method in the object class from which the instance is instantiated (i.e., the TFile class). However, it remains unclear as to what method of the TFileAccessControlList object the Office Action considers to be associated with the TFile object.

Column 15, lines 55-60 of *Atsatt* is interpreted as showing a **public member function that is specific to the TFile class** (see col. 15, lines 35-37). Hence, SetAccessControlList is interpreted as a method belonging to the TFile class rather than a method belonging to the TFileAccessControlList class. The SetAccessControlList method belonging to a TFile object is

“used to set the access control list for this file to the one specified in the parameter” (col. 15, lines 57-58). For example, the `SetAccessControlList` method belonging to a `TFile` object would likely call a method belonging to a `TFileAccessControlList` object, where that `TFileAccessControlList` method would access data (i.e., an `AccessControlList`) stored in the `TFileAccessControlList` object, and return such data to the calling `SetAccessControlList` method, whereby the `SetAccessControlList` method would modify the data stored in the `TFile` object accordingly in order to set the access control list for that `TFile` object/file.

Thus, the `SetAccessControlList` method belongs to the `TFile` object and is capable of performing operations on data stored in the `TFile` object (i.e., setting the access control list for the `TFile` object), but the `SetAccessControlList` method does not belong to the `TFileAccessControlList` object. Similarly, whatever method belongs to the `TFileAccessControlList` object and is callable by a `TFile` method is capable of performing operations on data stored in the `TFileAccessControlList` object (i.e., retrieving an access control list for setting the access control list for the `TFile` object, as specified in the parameter of the `SetAccessControlList` method), but such method does not belong to the `TFile` object. Stated otherwise, **respective methods belonging to the `TFile` object and the `TFileAccessControlList` object can perform operations on data stored in their respective objects, and can communicate with each other, but cannot perform operations on data stored in the other objects to which they do not belong.** Hence, *Atsatt* does not teach or fairly suggest that an instance is associated with a method that is not a method in the object class from which the instance is instantiated, where the association between the method and the instance is such that the method belongs to the instance and is capable of performing operations on data stored in the instance. Consequently, no combination of *Atsatt* and *Schoening* arrives at the embodiment recited in Claim 75 or makes that embodiment obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Based on the foregoing, Claim 75 is patentable over the cited references of record.

Claims 76-98 depend from Claim 75. Therefore, each of these dependent claims is patentable over the cited references of record for at least the same reasons as Claim 75. Furthermore, each of the dependent claims includes at least one other limitation that makes it further patentable over the references of record. However, due to the fundamental difference between Claim 75 and *Atsatt* discussed above, discussion of these additional limitations is unnecessary and is foregone at this time beyond the extent that may be presented hereafter. However, the rejection of the dependent claims is collectively traversed, and no statements of official notice, overarching allegations of obviousness, or allegations of well-known features that may be present in the Office Action are stipulated to or admitted as prior art features, and the right to separately argue such features in the future is not disclaimed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the rejections involving Claims 76-98 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

For example, **Claim 83** recites **invoking more than one method in association with a single database transaction**. However, the cited portion of *Schoening* only discusses the transaction commit method, which performs multiple tasks for committing a database operation. By contrast, though, *Schoening* does not discuss multiple methods, i.e., methods other than the transaction.commit() method, in association with a single database transaction. Furthermore, Claim 83, and Claims 82 and 75 from which it depends, are in the context of a **database-based file system**, which neither *Atsatt* nor *Schoening* teaches.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims (75-98) are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

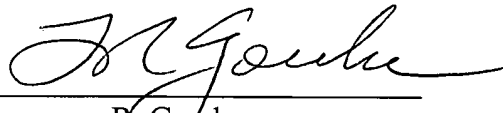
The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages or credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 29, 2006



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